



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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## **Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Applauds Governor Schwarzenegger for Signing Legislation to Protect the Integrity of the Vote**

*Secretary of State sponsored legislation provides enhanced reliability  
for recount procedures*

SACRAMENTO, CA - Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 2769 (Benoit), sponsored by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, that standardizes the mandatory manual ballot recount procedures. Secretary McPherson sponsored this legislation to establish standardized procedures for conducting the required random, one-percent manual tally of ballots that takes place after each election.

"As Secretary of State, my top priority is to protect the integrity of the vote and this measure will provide mechanisms for greater transparency and consistency in our elections process. This audit, which requires the machine tally of votes cast to match a hand count of ballots, is a key safeguard to ensure that elections are secure and votes are counted and recorded accurately. It was my pleasure to work with Assemblyman Benoit on this issue and I look forward to its implementation," Secretary McPherson said.

"I was pleased to work with Secretary McPherson on this bill. I am impressed with his commitment to protect the integrity of the vote and look forward to working with him again in the future. There is nothing more precious than our fundamental right to vote and it was my privilege to work to pass this commonsense measure to protect it," Assemblyman Benoit said.

AB 2769 will set uniform procedures for all counties to follow when conducting the public, one percent manual tally of ballots after an election. The new law requires county elections officials to notify the public when and where the random drawing to select precincts for the manual tally will take place. It also ensures that the one percent of precincts is chosen by a method that is verifiably random; it guarantees the selection of the one percent of precincts is open to the public; and requires that all types of ballots cast by voters (polling place, absentee and provisional) are included in the one percent manual tally process.

"Simply put, this bill will result in greater uniformity and transparency in the manual tally process," Secretary McPherson concluded.

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